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Gunning for first ever gold

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Sukma sepaktakraw teams have abandoned their plan for a training stint in Thailand due to unrest in the neighbouring country.

Instead, they will be based at the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), in making their final preparations for the country's biggest sporting carnival.

In fact, the State squads are already at the northwestern part of Peninsular Malaysia, gearing up for the Games, which is just around the corner.

Team manager Awang @ Kinit bin Ibrahim when contacted yesterday confirmed that they have decided to give it a

no-go to their initial plan of going for a training stint in Hatyai and Phatthalung, Thailand.

"Due to the unrest, we have decided to do our final phase of preparations in Kedah," he said.

On their target, he revealed their intention of gunning for two gold medals, by naming their girls' team as their best bet to realise their goal.

He said they will be banking on two national players to help them win their first ever Sukma gold medal.

"We have two national players in our women's team. They are currently training with the

national team and would join the rest of the team soon," said Awang referring to Emilia Eva Natasha Binti Saudia and Alice Harun.

For the record, former national player Daud Amba has been named as the head coach of the State teams, replacing former Thailand coach Suthep Chantrunsorn.

He will be assisted by Dullikom Ajak (women's team coach) and Sahran Untai (men's team coach).

The State men's team players are as follows Mohd Radzi Awang, Mohammad Nazwan Amdan, Hackles Yulius (tekong),

Md Khaerul Kahirun, Jaxon Amputong, Mohd Fahfee Bin Pitoh @ Lies, Sabri Tampikuk, Mohd Redzuan Matasin, Suari Madil (feeder), Yusiman Lai-mong, Hanif Amir and Mazwan Jugah Yiwot (killer).

The women's team players are Emilia Eva, Alice, Malindah Sharifuddin, Nurfaezah Masri, Amillyah Awang, Ellzah Blanda @ Bahari (tekong), Kamisah Khamis, Nur Fateha Rossli, Jostilah Jaalip, Alveani Awang, Junaini Emut (feeder), Razmah Anam, Lailah Nalat, Nurfaezahni Masri and Zia Elcy Matin (killer).



TOP PLAYERS ... Alice (right) and Emilia Eva in Sabah colours.